

Memo to file

December 30, 2003

From: Peter E. Kurtze
Administrator, Evaluation and Registration

Re: PG:60-20
Walker and Julia Black House

The property documented in the following MIHP form has not been formally evaluated for eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The comments in the text are those of the preparer of the documentation. The State Historic Preservation Officer has neither concurred nor disagreed with those comments.

CAPSULE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey No.: PG:60-20 (PACS 3.4) Construction Date: 1940

Name: Walker and Julia Black House

Location: 11810 Old Gunpowder Road, Beltsville Vicinity, Prince George's County

Private/Private Residence/Occupied/Good/Restricted

Description:

The Walker and Julia Black House is a 1½-story, 4-bay cross-gable cottage with Tudor Revival influences on the west side of Old Gunpowder Road in the Beltsville vicinity, Prince George's County. Constructed in 1940, according to the tax record, the building is L-shaped with an integral porch in the L-corner, a rear gable-roof addition, and a screened rear porch. There is also a 1-story, wood-frame, front-gable board-and-batten shed on the property.

Significance:

According to the tax record, the Walker and Julia Black House was built in 1940 on approximately .4 hectares (1 acre) of land which was purchased from the heirs of Marcellus Roby in 1932. The Blacks sold the property in 1982 to John and Jeanne Armbruster, the current owners.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form
Montgomery-Prince George's Short-term Congestion Relief

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name: (indicate preferred name)

historic Walker and Julia Black House (preferred)

and/or common Armbruster House

2. Location:

street & number 11810 Old Gunpowder Road

n/a not for publication

city, town Beltsville ☒ vicinity of

congressional district

state Maryland

county Prince George's

3. Classification:

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> other:
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	

4. Owner of Property: (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name John J. and Jeanne L. Armbruster

street & number 1081 Broadview Drive

telephone no.:

city, town Annapolis

state and zip code Maryland 21401

5. Location of Legal Description

Land Records of Prince George's County

liber 5546

street & number Prince George's County Judicial Center

folio 939

city, town Upper Marlboro

state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Survey No. PG:60-20 (PACS 3.4)

Condition		Check one	Check one	
excellent	deteriorated	unaltered	X original site	
X good	ruins	X altered	moved	date of move _____
fair	unexposed			

Resource Count: 2

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Walker and Julia Black House is a 1½-story, 4-bay cross-gable cottage with Tudor Revival influences on the west side of Old Gunpowder Road in the Beltsville vicinity, Prince George's County. Constructed in 1940, according to the tax record, the building is L-shaped with an integral porch in the L-corner, a rear gable-roof addition, and a screened rear porch.

The structure has a cross-gable roof with asphalt shingles, a rear gable dormer, and an exterior-end brick chimney. It is of wood-frame construction with aluminum siding, and it has a poured concrete foundation. The windows are double-hung wood sash.

The east, or front elevation has an arched integral entry porch on the front-gable. The entrance is located under the porch. There are three window bays on the first story. The first two are separated by the battered chimney stack, and have 6/1 double-hung windows. The third is located on the side-gable wing, and is also 6/1 double-hung.

The north elevation has a raised concrete foundation. There are paired 6-light garage doors located under the main block of the house. There are three 3-light windows in the basement level. The fenestration pattern is symmetrical. A set of brick steps leads up to the first floor entrance, which is under the arched porch on the front-gable wing. There are two 6/1 double-hung windows on the first story of the main block of the house. There is one 6/1 double hung window on the rear addition. There are two 6/1 double-hung windows on the second story of the main block.

The rear, or west elevation consists of the side of the main block and the gable end of the rear addition. There is a screened, shed roof porch over the three bays in the main block. The first two bays have 6/1 double-hung windows. The third bay has a door. There is a gable dormer centered on the roof, and it has a 1/1 double-hung window.

The south elevation has four bays. The first bay has one 6/1 double-hung window. The second and third bays have paired 6/1 double-hung windows. The fourth bay has one 6/1 double-hung windows. There are two 6/1 double-hung windows on the second story.

There is one outbuilding associated with this property. It is a 1-story front-gable shed with a shed-roof addition. Constructed circa 1940, it is of wood-frame construction with board-and-batten siding. There is a door on the south gable end. The structure is located to the northwest of the house, on the opposite side of the driveway.

The property is located on the west side of Old Gunpowder Road, with residential property to the west, south, and east, and farmland to the north. The property has mature trees along the outside property line. The property's setting is residential rural, and remains relatively unchanged from the historic setting.

8. Significance

Survey No. PG:60-20 (PACS 3.4)

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archaeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communication	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1940

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or
Applicable Exceptions: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

According to the tax record, the Walker and Julia Black House was built in 1940 on approximately .4 hectares (1 acre) of land which was purchased from the heirs of Marcellus Roby in 1932. The Blacks sold the property in 1982 to John and Jeanne Armbruster, the current owners.

Walker and Julia Black House is located in a rural area along Old Gunpowder Road to the northwest of Beltsville. Beltsville, named after the Belt family, is an area of Prince George's County on either side of Route 1 from Ammendale Road to the Capital Beltway. During the 1700s and early 1800s, the Snowden family possessed large estates which were located on both sides of what is now Route 1, and on land which is now the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center. In the colonial era, tobacco farming occurred along Indian Creek, a tributary of the Northeast Branch of the Anacostia River. Later, farmers in the area produced grains and vegetables.

By 1795, a turnpike from Baltimore to Georgetown in the District of Columbia had been constructed through the county. Taverns were established along the turnpike (present day Route 1 and Old Baltimore Pike), including one operated by Jacob Van Horn in what is now Beltsville. The tavern, called Vansville, serviced turnpike travellers from the 1790s to 1817. In the 1830s, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad built tracks for the Washington Branch through the Belt family farm and established a station which was named Beltsville. The station, located along the turnpike, the east-west roads of Odell and Powder Mill, and the railroad, grew during the 1800s and became a village containing two churches, residences, stores, and businesses such as a blacksmith and a wheelwright shop.

During the late 1800s, Beltsville became part of the expanding Washington, D.C. suburbs, as development occurred along the railroad and streetcar lines north of the city. Federal workers could live in the suburbs and work downtown, and many new communities were established from the District line to Beltsville. The suburban development continued after the introduction of the automobile. The state improved the roads, and Route 1 became the major north/south route along the east coast. Although the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center was established in 1910 and employment in the area increased, Beltsville was relatively far from Washington, and the more southern suburbs experienced greater growth. It was not until after the Second World War that massive development came to the Beltsville area. The increase in Federal employment and the dramatic rise in personal automobile use led to the suburbanization of Beltsville. The area west of Route 1 was developed as a residential area, and the development increased in the 1960s as

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

SOURCE NAME: Walker and Julia Black House

SURVEY NO.: PG:60-20 (PACS 3.4)

ADDRESS: 11810 Old Gunpowder Road, Beltsville Vicinity, Prince George's County

8. Significance (Continued)

Interstate 95 made the area more accessible. Today, most of the farms are gone and Beltsville has become a densely populated suburb of the Nation's Capital.

The Walker and Julia Black House is an example of a vernacular cross-gable cottage. Between 1870 and 1940 the vernacular cottage style was typically built for Americans of modest means. They are characterized by simple ornamentation and mass-produced components, such as door frames, moldings, sash and window units, and porch decoration. The development of post-Civil War machinery capable of producing large amounts of standardized housing elements, such as those found in cottages, contributed greatly to the development of the modern American housing industry. Designs for vernacular cottages were obtained from popular magazines, such as House Beautiful, or carpenter's and builder's journals, such as American Builder. A variety of front-gable, side-gable, cross-gable and hipped roof frame cottages were developed in the early to mid-twentieth century. Front-gable and hipped roof cottages are primarily 1 to 1½-stories tall, 3-bays wide and several rooms deep. Side-gable and cross-gable structures are usually 2 to 2½-stories tall, are typically 2 to 3-bays in width and vary from one to three rooms deep. They usually include a porch covered with a shed roof. Porches are supported by posts often containing machine-produced Victorian ornamentation. Some cottages feature ornamentation drawn in a Craftsman style or Colonial Revival architecture (Gottfried and Jennings 1988, viii-xv).

There is also a shed located on the property. Sheds are small utilitarian buildings used for the storage of non-food items, such as small tools, chemicals, or machines. Sometimes equipment such as generators or oil tanks are sheltered in sheds. They are often built to supplement the storage space available in structures designed for a specific function such as animal shelter, food storage, or food production. These multi-purpose sheds are difficult to categorize because of their simple building form and resemblance to other outbuildings. Most sheds are small wood-frame structures with gable roofs and few wall openings. Sheds are likely to be associated with domestic properties, as well as agricultural properties.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

SOURCE NAME: Walker and Julia Black House

SURVEY NO.: PG:60-20 (PACS 3.4)

ADDRESS: 11810 Old Gunpowder Road, Beltsville Vicinity, Prince George's County

8. Significance (Continued)

National Register Evaluation:

Constructed in 1940, the Walker and Julia Black House is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The property is not eligible under Criterion A, as research conducted indicates no association with any historic events or trends significant in the development of national, state, or local history. Historic research indicates that the property has no association with persons who have made specific contributions to history, and therefore, it does not meet Criterion B. It is not eligible under Criterion C, as it is an undistinguished example of a mid-twentieth century residential type which has been altered with the addition of aluminum siding and a rear addition. Finally, the structure has no known potential to yield important information, and therefore, is not eligible under Criterion D.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility Not Recommended _____
Comments _____

Reviewer, OPS: _____ Date: _____
Reviewer, NR Program: _____ Date: _____

9. Major Bibliographical References Survey No. PG:60-20 (PACS 3.4)

See Attached

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____
Quadrangle name Beltsville, MD Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Susan L. Taylor
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organization	P.A.C. Spero & Company
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date	May 1998
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street & number	40 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 412
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telephone	(410) 296-1635
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city or town	Baltimore
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state	Maryland
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The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposed only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCP/DHCD
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
(410) 514-7600

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: Walker and Julia Black House

SURVEY NO.: PG:60-20 (PACS 3.4)

ADDRESS: 11810 Old Gunpowder Road, Beltsville Vicinity, Prince George's County

9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

Brugger, Robert A. 1988. Maryland, A Middle Temperament 1634-1980. Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Gottfried, Herbert and Jans Jennings. 1988. American Vernacular Design, 1870-1940. Ames, Iowa: Iowa State University Press.

Hiebert, Ray Eldon, and Richard K. MacMaster. 1976. A Grateful Remembrance: the Story of Montgomery County, Maryland. Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Government and the Montgomery County Historical Society.

Hopkins, G.M. [1879] 1975. Atlas of 15 Miles Around Washington including County of Prince George's, Maryland. Reprint, Riverdale, Maryland: Prince George's County Historical Society.

Land Records of Prince George's County, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

Prince George's County Community Renewal Program. 1974. The Neighborhoods of Prince George's County. Upper Marlboro, Maryland: Prince George's County Government.

Tindall, George Brown. 1984. America: A Narrative History. 2 vols. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.

Virta, Alan. 1984. Prince George's County: A Pictorial History. Rev. 1991. Virginia Beach: The Donning Company Publishers.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

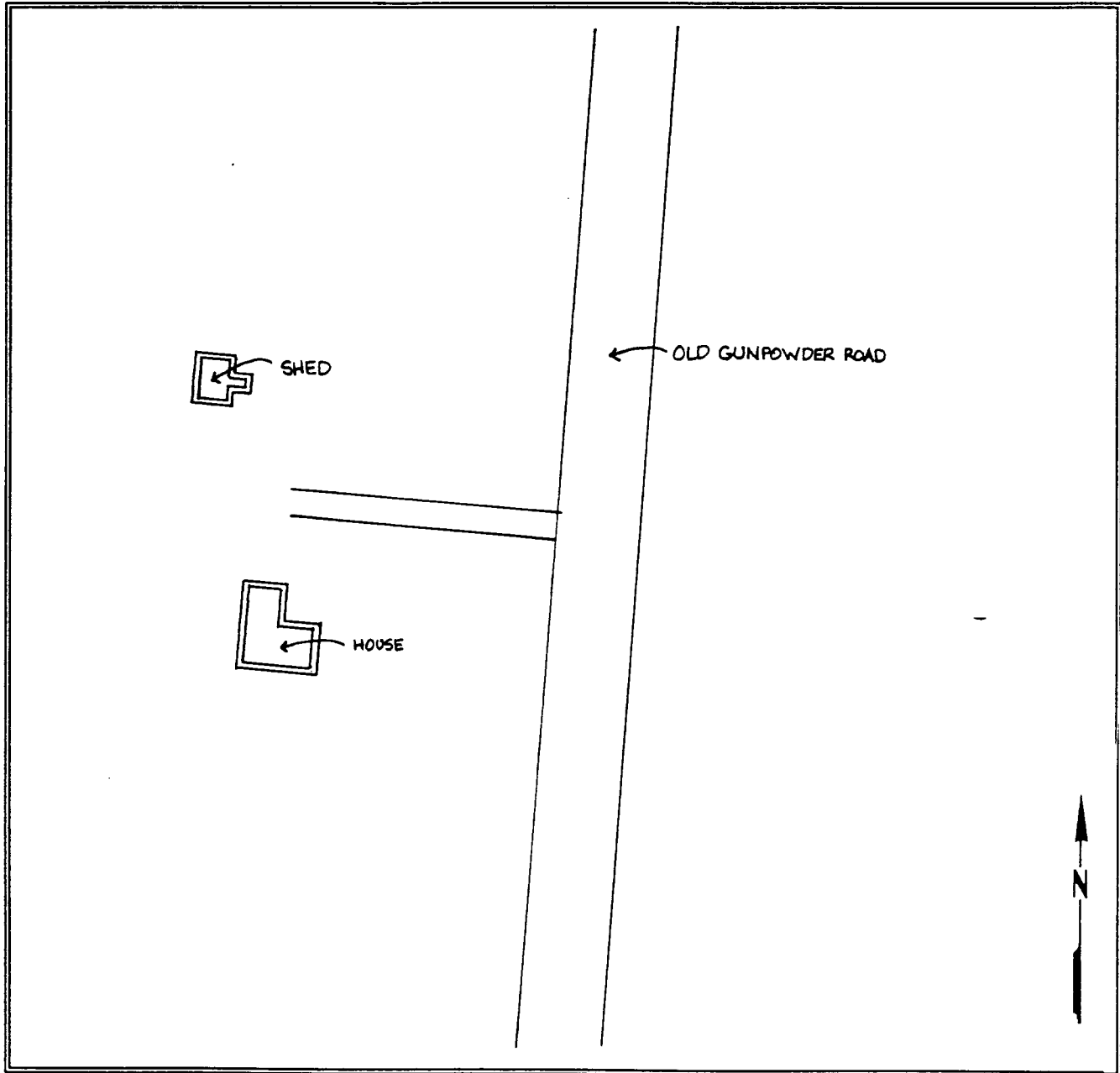
RESOURCE NAME: Walker and Julia Black House

SURVEY NO.: PG:60-20 (PACS 3.4)

ADDRESS: 11810 Old Gunpowder Road, Beltsville Vicinity, Prince George's County

10. Geographical Data (Continued)

Resource Sketch Map:



CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

SOURCE NAME: Walker and Julia Black House

SURVEY NO.: PG:60-20 (PACS 3.4)

ADDRESS: 11810 Old Gunpowder Road, Beltsville Vicinity, Prince George's County

Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data Sheet

Historic Context:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period Theme (s): Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture

RESOURCE TYPE:

Category (see Section 3 of survey form): Building

Historic Environment (urban, suburban, village, or rural): Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Private Residence

Known Design Source (write none if unknown): None

Preparer
P.A.C. Spero & Company
May 1998

Click here for a plain text ADA compliant screen.



Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
Real Property Data Search

[Go Back](#)
[View Map](#)
[New Search](#)

Account Identifier: District - 01 Account Number - 0004713

Owner Information

Owner Name: ARMBRUSTER,JOHN J & JEANNE L Use: RESIDENTIAL
Principal Residence: NO
Mailing Address: 1081 BROADVIEW DR Deed Reference: 1) / 5546/ 939
ANNAPOLIS MD 21401-4856 2)

Location & Structure Information

Premises Address Zoning Legal Description
11810 OLD GUNPOWDER RD RR PT PAR 20 - FLAG
BELTSVILLE 20705 BOTTOM(.3668AC DFR)

Map	Grid	Parcel	Sub District	Subdivision	Section	Block	Lot	Group	Plat No:
12	E2	20						81	Plat Ref:
Special Tax Areas			Town Ad Valorem Tax Class	08					
Primary Structure Built			Enclosed Area		Property Land Area			County Use	
1940			1,637 SF		29,155.00 SF			002	
Stories		Basement		Type			Exterior		
1 1/2		YES		STANDARD UNIT			FRAME		

Value Information

	Base Value	Value As Of 01/01/2002	Phase-in Assessments	
			As Of 07/01/2003	As Of 07/01/2004
Land:	57,510	52,510		
Improvements:	84,490	112,850		
Total:	142,000	165,360	157,572	165,360
Preferential Land:	0	0	0	0

Transfer Information

Seller: BLACK,JULIA A Date: 06/25/1982 Price: \$90,000
Type: UNKNOWN Deed1: / 5546/ 939 Deed2:
Seller: Date: 03/20/1940 Price: \$0
Type: UNKNOWN Deed1: Deed2:
Seller: Date: Price:
Type: Deed1: Deed2:

Exemption Information

Partial Exempt Assessments	Class	07/01/2003	07/01/2004
County	000	0	0
State	000	0	0
Municipal	000	0	0

Tax Exempt: NO
Exempt Class:

Special Tax Recapture:

* NONE *



6827

GUNPOWDER

P.23

P.14

1.00 A.
P.20

ARMEN D. TIDLER
5500/504
5.57 A.

P.16

1.03 A.
P.26

P.11

1.04 A.
P.18

P.47

P.21
P.46

W.L. SPICER
PROPERTY

32

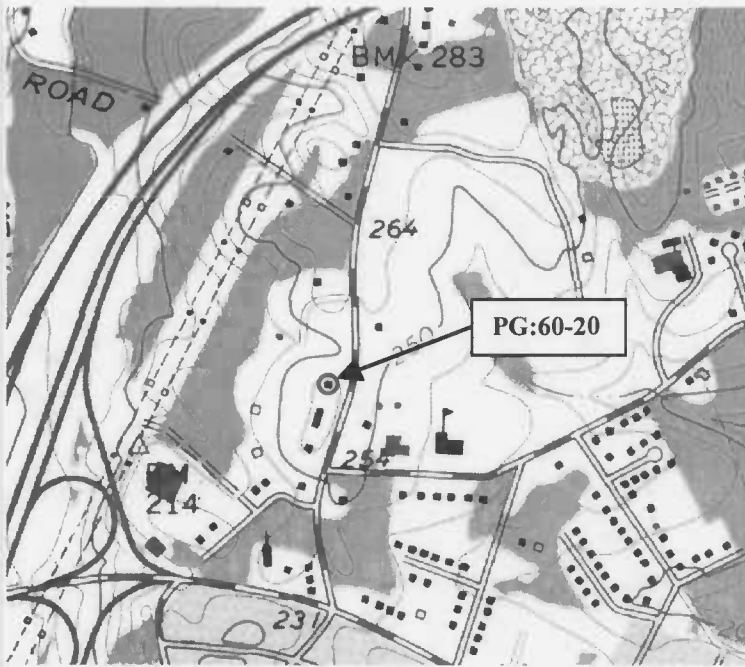
3142

31

AMMENDA

http://sdatcert3.resiusa.org/rp_rewrite/maps/showmap.asp?countyid=17&accountid=01+00... 07/29/2003

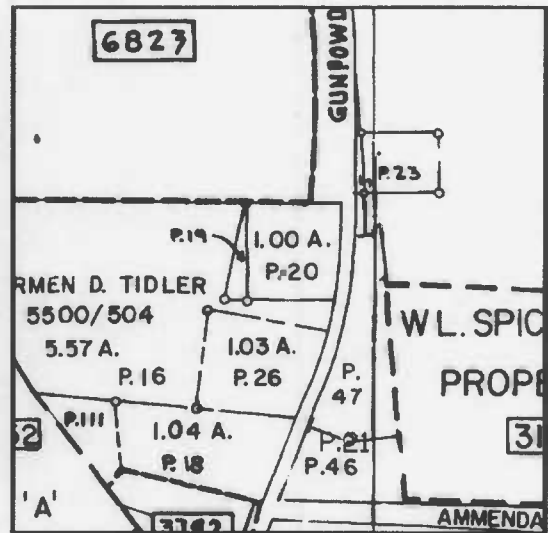
PG:60-20
 Walker & Julia Black Property
 11810 Old Gunpowder Road, Beltsville
 Beltsville Quadrangle



1998 Aerial Photo



Tax Map 12



Montgomery-Prince George's Short-term
Congestion Relief
Town/County Beltsville Vic./Prince George's
Quad Beltsville, MD
Survey No. PG:60-20 (PACS 3.4)
Property Name Walker and Julia Black Property





1 PG: 60-80

2 Walker + Julia Black Horse

3 ... : L ... County, Md

4 Susan ...

5 5/97

6 Mid STHC

7 Elevation -

8 1 of 12

STHC + R 12/27/02



1 P.E. 65-20

2 Albert & Julia Black House

3 Pierce & George Co. Ltd

4 Susan Taylor

5 199

6 P.E. 643

7 H.E. 644

8 6-1-1

10-1-1 12-1-1



1. Po. to SC
2. Walker & J. in Black Hills
3. Prince George's Co., Md.
4. Seneca Co., N.Y.
5. 5/27
6. H. & L. P. D.
7. 1. elevation
8. 3 of 10

24 N. H. 12283



- 1 PG 100-200
- 2 H. H. 1, 100 - Black River
- 3 River, Hagerstown, Md
- 4 Susan Taylor
- 5 5/97
- 6 Md 2-11?
- 7 NW corner
- 8 4 1/2 10

100-100 100-100



1 PG:60-20

2 Walker + India Black House

3 Prince Georges Co, Md

4 Susan Gayle

5 5/27

6 M1.5+0

7 W. Martin

8 E of 10

2000 1000 1000



1 P6:60-20

2 Walker & John Black Horse

3 Prince George's Co, Md

4 Susan Taylor

5 5/98

6 11d 8HPC

7 SW corner

8 6 1/2"

ST H N H 7100 921



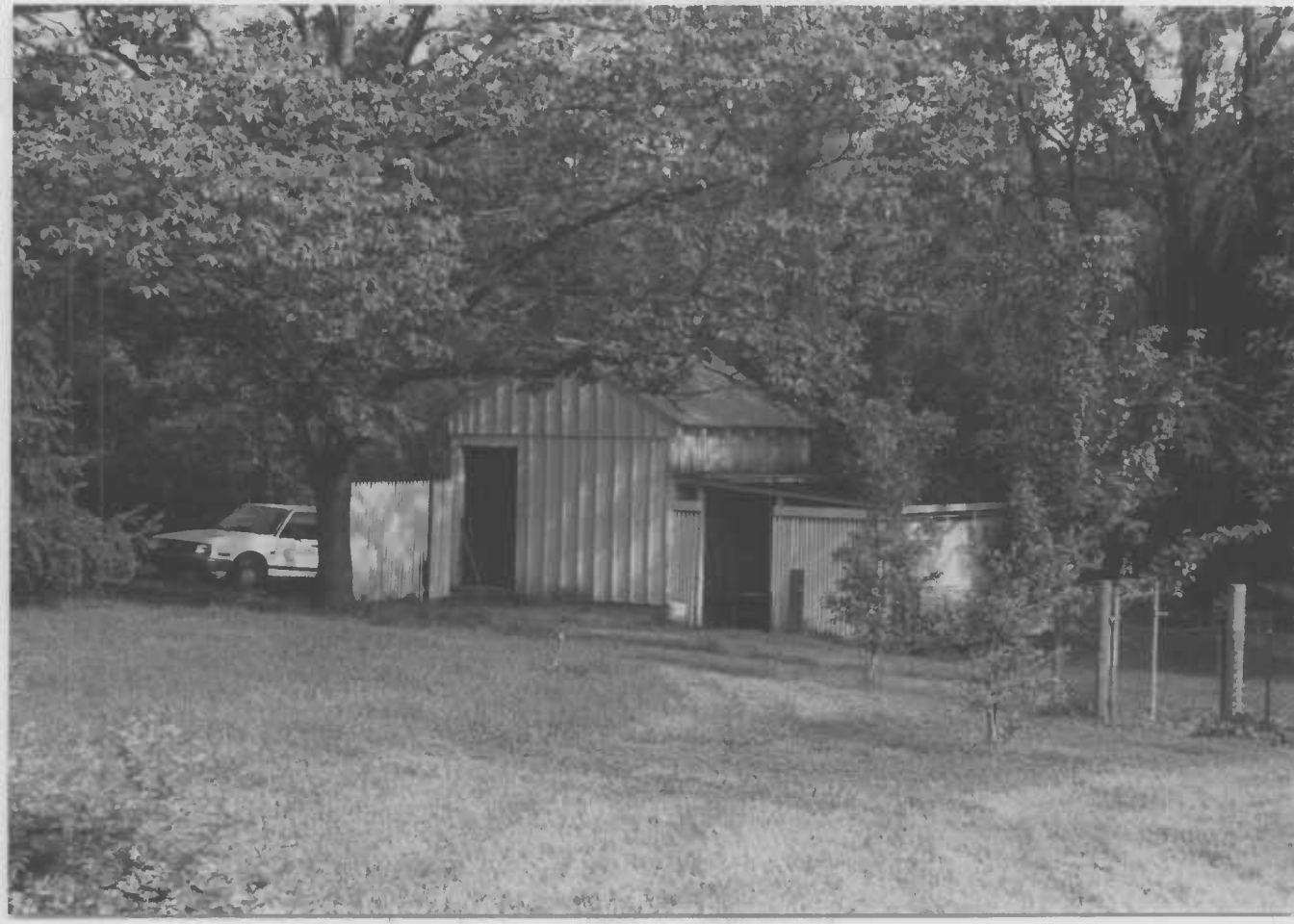
- 1 PG 25 38
- 2 Walker & Julia Bond
- 3 Prince George Co., VA
- 4 Susan Taylor
- 5 5/98
- 6 Mid STPS
- 7 St. Albans -
- 8 7 of 16

ED R H F 7200 50.



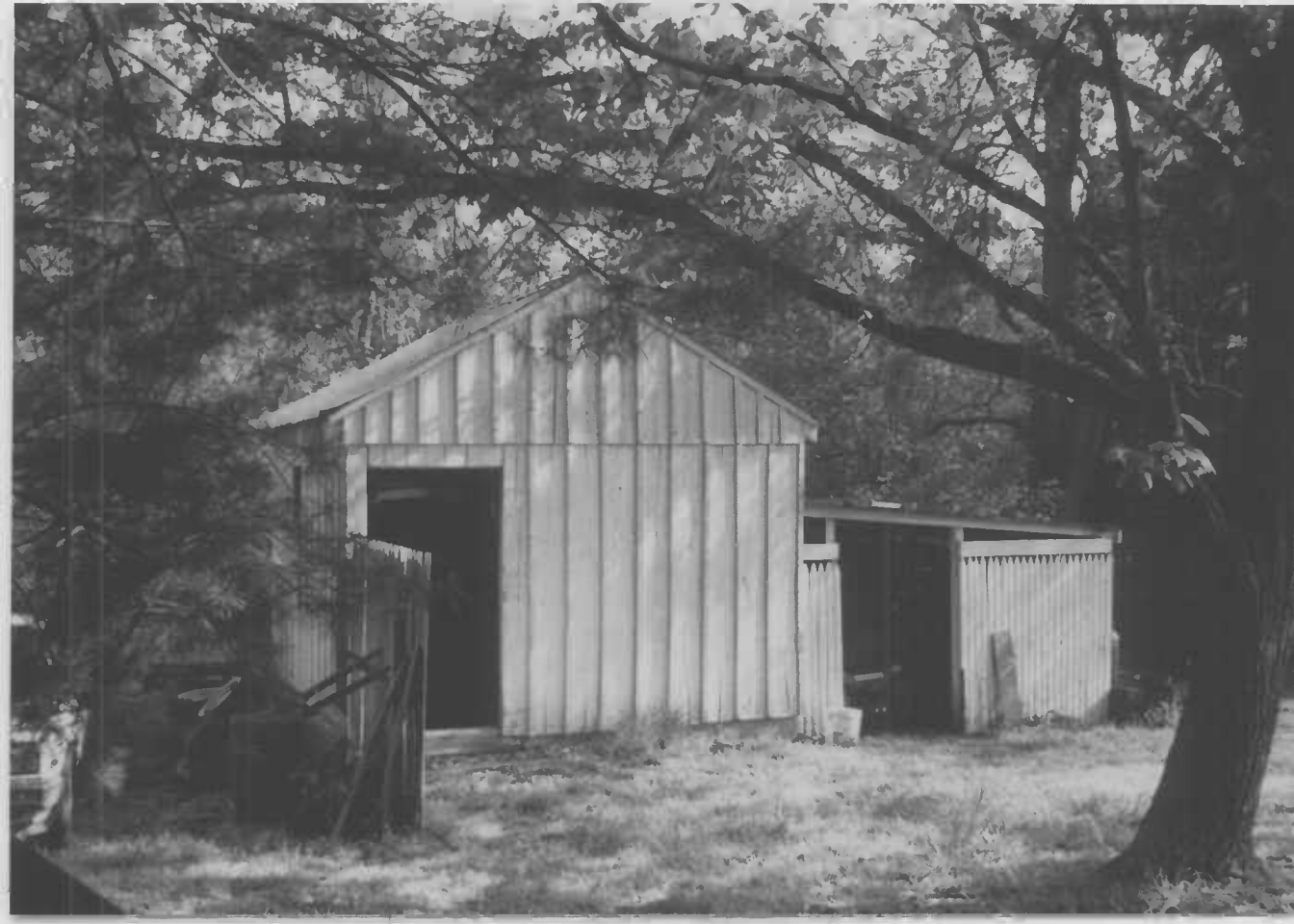
- 1 PG 60 20
- 2 Walker + in Black House
- 3 Prince Georges Co. Md
- 4 Susan Laylor
- 5 5/27
- 6 Old St + PO
- 7 St. Charles
- 8 8-8-12

March 1, 1956.



- 1 PG 60 20
- 2 Walker + Mrs. Black Horse
- 3 Prince George Co, Md
- 4 Susan Taylor
- 5 5/78
- 6 Old SHPO
- 7 Shed St. corner
- 8 9 of 10

2000 + 10 1200 000



1 PG 60 - 0

2 Walter + Julia Black Horse

3 Prince George Co, Md

4 Susan Taylor

5 5/92

6 Wild HPS

7 Shea, Son

8 10 of 10

2000 R.H.A. 1000000